



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MAYOR DICK MURPHY

**San Diego Science & Technology Commission
MEETING MINUTES**

The San Diego Science and Technology Commission (SDS&TC) held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2003, at SAIC, 10260 Campus Point Drive, Building C, Conference Room C5100, San Diego, CA 92122.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Dr. Martha Dennis, SDS&TC Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Members present: Dr. Hui Cai, Jon Cohen, Scott Corlett, Dr. Martha Dennis, Dr. Tom Dillon, Julie Meier Wright, Alberto Mier Y Teran, Susan Myrland, Tyler Orion, Richard Polanco, Jr., Scott Randall, and Maurice Wilson. Members absent: Craig Andrews, Vicki Marion, and Carrie Stone. Others Present: Community & Economic Development Department staff members Gary DeBusschere, Toni Dillon, Tina Hines, Ana Maria Jaramillo; Lisa Foster, City Attorneys Office; Terri Bergman and Ron Oliver, San Diego Workforce Partnership.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 23, 2002 and December 4, 2002.**
(MOTION/SECOND/Dillon/Polanco/UNANIMOUS)
- IV. **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**
 - A. Commission Appointment & Vacancies Update: Dr. Martha Dennis welcomed newly appointed Commissioners Ms. Tyler Orion, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Technology Alliance, Mr. Scott Randall, Deputy Commander of SPAWAR, and Mr. Maurice Wilson, Director of Employment with the San Diego Urban League.
 - B. Mission Gorge Technology Park Update: Gary DeBusschere, Program Manager with Community and Economic Development, gave an update on the Mission Gorge Technology Park project. He reported that this project had been presented to the Navajo Community Planning Group, City Council, and the Planning Commission; and that the Planning Commission had given approval to proceed with a community plan amendment for the 400-acre site. DeBusschere affirmed that the \$50,000 funded by the Commission will be used to identify a financing structure, to examine transportation scenarios, and to conduct a marketing study.
 - C. Approval of the 2003 Regularly Scheduled Meeting Calendar: The Commission decided that the approval of the meeting calendar did not require a vote because it is an informational item.
 - D. Discussion Item: revisions and suggestions for the SDS&TC website. Dr. Dennis requested that the Commission's involvement with the Mission Gorge Technology Park and the minutes from Digital Inclusion Work Group (DIWG) meetings be posted to the Commission's website. Toni Dillon suggested that a meeting with the City's IT&C department should be scheduled to discuss revisions to this website.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

- A. Digital Divide Subcommittee/Digital Inclusion Working Group Update: Dr. Dennis summarized the content of the January 29, 2003 DIWG meeting. In attendance as guests were Kim Bess, Director of Science and Educational Technology, and Nancy Taylor, K-12 Science Coordinator for the San Diego Office of Education. The focus of the discussion was the status of technological resources in the San Diego city and county school systems.

Dr. Dennis stated that the California Digital High School grant installed basic computer connectivity to classrooms. This grant included funding for software, hardware, and training. As a result on average there is one computer for every four (4) high school students in San Diego County; however, one out every 25 computers is more than three-years old and cannot run the latest software. In addition, this year the state has deferred most funding for technical support staff. The result of this deferral is that only 25% of the high schools in the county have technical staff in place. It is expected that the state will offer no, or very limited, funding for technical staff in fiscal year 2004. Dr. Dennis reported that San Diego middle schools, which were remodeled under Proposition "O," received limited funding exclusively for computer hardware with no funds for software or technical staff. Furthermore, San Diego elementary schools receive very little funding for computer technology; therefore, most elementary schools have no or very limited access to digital resources on site.

Dr. Dennis suggested that collaboration between schools and various community organizations could leverage some additional resources for schools. The DIWG will continue to work to facilitate this collaboration.

- B. Portal Technology Subcommittee Update: This item was tabled until the next meeting at the request of Richard Polanco.

VI. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY TRADE ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTATION

- A. Presenter: William Cassidy Jr., President, Defense Conversion Resources, LLC was unable to attend to discuss the relationship between the defense industry and science and technology firms due to a last minute schedule conflict. Dillon reported that Hank Cunningham, Director of the Community and Economic Development Department, would present the findings of Cassidy's study, commissioned by the City of San Diego, that suggest a strategic response to the 2005 round of defense base closures and realignments at the Commission's April 23 meeting.
- B. Government Code 1090, Conflict of Interest presentation: Lisa Foster, Deputy City Attorney, reported to the Commission that the "conflict of interest" regulation applicable to the Commission is Government Code Section 1090. Section 1090 applies to virtually all state and local officers, employees, and multimember bodies such as boards or commissions, whether elected or appointed, at both the state and local levels. In accordance with this regulation, an official who has a financial interest in a specific City action cannot participate in planning, determining the scope, drafting plans and specifications, setting contract terms, evaluating applicants, and/or negotiating this action because this could be violation of Section 1090. Foster indicated that there are a few exceptions to this general rule, which can be applied on a case-by-case basis. Specifically discussed was the exemption for members of

multi-bodies that are employed by non-profit entities. In this case there is the ability for the officials to reclude themselves from participation.

Dr. Tom Dillon expressed some concern about his involvement with the Commission and the potential conflict of interest with his business activities for SAIC, his employer. SAIC provides services under contract to the City of San Diego. He suggested that a letter detailing the Commission's policy on contracts should be written to the City Attorneys Office. Dr. Dennis proposed that a subcommittee consisting of Ms. Meier Wright and Dr. Dillon could accomplish this task.

Ms. Meier Wright moved that the Commission take action only on contracts that directly support its objectives. These objectives are stated in the Ordinance forming the Commission and in its own Bylaws. (MOTION/SECOND/Wright/Dillon/UNANIMOUS).

C. San Diego Workforce Partnership (SDWP) Presentation: Terri Bergman presented the study results for the SDWP study, *A Path to Prosperity*. This study illustrated that San Diego has many low wage jobs as compared to higher wage technology jobs. She reported that 26% of San Diego jobs are low paying. In addition, half of all low wages earners in California are parents and, of these parents, 75% are single heads of households.

She stated that locally there is a shortage of skilled technology workers available. Specifically, 32% of biotechnology/pharmaceutical, 26% of computer and electronics manufacturing, and over 10% of the communications firms use H-1B visas to recruit employees from other countries.

Bergman concluded with the study's recommendations for San Diego's successful cultivation of a high-tech workforce : 1.) focus on the development of quality jobs; 2.) provide workforce development opportunities for small businesses; 3.) build K-12 skills, particularly math, science, and soft skills; 4.) provide workplace internships for young people; 5.) increase the capacity for producing college graduates; 6.) promote the use of the Earned Income Tax Credits; and 7.) improve the data collection on college outcomes.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS: All members of the Commission were in consensus that the next regular meeting will be April 23 from 3 PM to 5PM.

VIII. ADJOURN: There being no further business of the Commission; this meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.